

SN: 10/044,018  
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### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 remain in the case, and this amendment adds new claims 7, 8 and 9. This response is timely submitted on July 8, 2004 with a certificate of transmission in accordance with 37 CFR 1.8. A conditional petition for extension of time is included herewith in the event that it is necessary for having the response considered by the Examiner.

The final action states that U.S. Patent No. 5,249,236 (Sakamoto) discloses a damper for loudspeakers that includes the same adhesive agent as in the present invention. The final action ignores the inventive features of the present application on the basis that providing the adhesive agent of the present invention was well known in the art.

First of all, it should be noted that the adhesive agent 8 in the reference is used at places completely different from the adhesive agent in the present invention, and the objectives of their uses are also different. On one hand, the adhesive agent of the present invention is to bond the tubular knitted tinsel cords to the damper along with the corrugations, and the adhesive agent is interposed between the damper and the tinsel cords. On the other hand, the adhesive agent in Sakamoto is used for attaching the cone 9 and/or the damper 1 to the voice coil bobbin 3 or for reinforcing the connection between the tensile wire 2a and the voice coil leads 5.

Further, Sakamoto does not teach or suggest the use of the adhesive agent of acrylic emulsions that have tackiness and maintains viscoelasticity even after being dried, which is

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an important feature of the present invention.

The adhesive agent used in the present invention and recited in claim 1 has tackiness that can be felt by touching it. It also is somewhat soft, maintaining a viscoelasticity so that it acts as a cushion.

On the other hand, the cited reference actually teaches away from the present invention. In the reference, the adhesive agent 8 cannot be the type of adhesive agent used in the present invention because it is used at the joint between the cone 9 and the voice coil bobbin 3. That is, in Sakamoto, the same adhesive agent as used to attach the cone 9 to the coil bobbin 3 is also used for reinforcing the connection between the tensile wire and the voice coil leads (column 3, line 42 to column 4, line 2). Considering this point, it can be clearly seen that the adhesive agent 8 in the cited reference is of a type that hardens when being dried to firmly attach the cone 9 to the voice coil bobbin 3 in order to effectively transmit the vibration of the voice coil bobbin 3 to the cone 9. In other words, the adhesive agent which acts as a cushion after being dried as in the case of the present invention cannot transmit the vibration of the voice coil to the cone effectively enough, rather having a completely opposite effect. And therefore, the adhesive agent which acts as a cushion is completely unsuitable for attaching the cone 9 to the voice coil bobbin 3 in the reference.

In view of the above, it is clear that the adhesive agent in the cited reference is completely different from the adhesive agent in this case in its characteristic workings and effects. The present claim 1 certainly has the necessary inventive step, because the claim contains not only the use of an adhesive agent to attach the tinsel cords to the damper, but also the use of the adhesive agent of type that conventionally was not used in this field.

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And in conclusion it should be clear that Sakamoto is irrelevant as a citation with respect to the present invention, and that the application is patentable over the prior art described in the reference.

Nevertheless, in order to make the differences clearer, applicant would like to add new claim 7, which adds the phrase "acting as a cushion" to the language of claim 1.

Regarding claims 2, 5 and 6, the official action argues that Sakamoto discloses the use of tubular knitted tinsel cords that are the same as in the present invention. The official action states that the invention is obvious because the structural features of the tubular knitted tinsel cords are well known in the art.

In the first place, the reasons for using the tubular knitted tinsel cords of a coarse weaving pitch in the present invention are that they are easily flattened under pressure when being processed and that squeezing them down to the shape of the damper does not cause any rupture of the tinsel cords.

However, it should be noted that Sakamoto does not teach that the tinsel cords are tubular knitted. And even if they were tubular knitted tinsel cords, the reference neither teaches nor suggests that they are knitted at a coarse weaving pitch, which is another important feature of the present invention.

Further, in the reference, the tinsel cord should have a weaving pitch that is same as or tighter than in an ordinary tinsel cord, judging from the description of the cord as "tensile wire" throughout the specification and in the claims, because generally with tinsel cords the tighter the weaving pitch of the cords, the more tensile the cords become.

It should be noted that neither the cited reference nor any other document discloses

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or suggests the feature of the coarse weaving pitch of the tinsel cords in the present invention and that the tinsel cords of a weaving pitch as coarse as in this invention was known in the art before this invention.

However, in order to make the differences clearer, applicant submits new claims 8 and 9 which add the phrase "being easily flattened" to the language of claims 2 and 5, respectively.

The feature of the claim 6 that the tubular knitted tinsel cords are in a state bonded only under pressure originates in that the adhesive agent used in the present invention is a pressure-sensitive adhesive agent, and relates to the foregoing discussions regarding claim 1.

Finally, please be advised that this invention has been patented both in Germany and Great Britain with patent numbers DE 102 01 459 and GB 2374487, respectively, having claims substantially the same as or broader than this application. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. Therefore, applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance for the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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